

DEPARTMENT OF STATE



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INTERVIEW WITH
THE HONORABLE HENRY A. KISSINGER
SECRETARY OF STATE
BY
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QUESTION: Mr. Secretary, could you just tell us what the fundamental tenets of the new African policy that you are developing are?

SECRETARY KISSINGER: The United States would like to see the developments in Africa be guided by African motives and by African nations, and therefore to prevent superpower intervention. We are supporting majority rule, minority rights and economic progress and therefore we are encouraging those African nations that are prepared to pursue this by peaceful means and using all our efforts to enable them to achieve it by peaceful means.

QUESTION: Does this extend also to the Republic of South Africa in the future?

SECRETARY KISSINGER: It applies to all African problems.

QUESTION: Why do you think all superpowers are interested in Africa today?

SECRETARY KISSINGER: Well, the United States is primarily interested in letting Africans settle their own future. I believe that there are other superpowers that are pursuing their own strategic and ideological objectives here and I believe they would serve world peace better if they permitted African problems to be settled by Africans.

QUESTION: Neither the U. S. really, nor Russia, nor China were represented at the Berlin Conference when Africa was carved up the first time. Do you think that this is a new carving up?

SECRETARY KISSINGER: The United States does not want any sphere of interest in Africa. The United States accepts the conclusions of

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African leaders. What the United States opposes is outside powers picking out their own spheres of influence and pouring in military equipment in order to achieve their own objectives. We want no American sphere of influence here.

QUESTION: Would the U. S. be as interested if Russian and Chinese influence had not been growing over the last few years on the African continent?

SECRETARY KISSINGER: Who knows what a country would have done. The fact is our policy is as I have stated it and, for that matter, we support the French efforts which seem to me to go in the same direction.
